

Abstract

The Thesis „Functions of European State Borders: A Case Study of Ślubfurt“ analyses Polish-German border in Frankfurt (Oder) and Ślubice, where conceptual artist Michael Kurzwelly realizes his project Ślubfurt. A theory of an Irish professor Liam O’Dowd relating to a typology of state borders’ functions is applied. In this theory O’Dowd distinguishes four border metaphors: a *barrier*, a *bridge*, a *source* and a *symbol of identity*. In the first chapter of the thesis the character of European inter-state borders and cross-border cooperation is described and O’Dowd’s theory is explained. The second part deals with asymmetrical character of Polish-German border and Euro-region *Pro Europa Viadrina* and analyses them within this theory. The focus of this thesis lies in the third chapter which describes the realities of a twin-city Frankfurt (Oder) and Ślubice and particularly Kurzwelly’s artistic and activist project, in which identity of the fictional city Ślubfurt (connecting the two cities together) is being created. This is again analysed by means of the mentioned border theory. The thesis also answers the question which border functions are promoted by the European integration project and in which relation are these efforts with the activities of the Ślubfurt project.